



People's Congregational Church

*An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love
through engaging worship and faithful service*



October 24, 2021

“Will We Restore And Harvest With Joy?”

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

*You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.
Live streaming begins at 9:27.*

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Welcome One and All”

*Hebrew Tune
Sharon Neuenfeldt*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

***Gathering Prayer**

Mindy Peters

O Holy One, may this place be filled with your Spirit. Gently nudge us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectations, of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties. Softened by your love, surrounded by your light, and open to your mystery -- may we be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple, and filled with the joy that is you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“How Firm a Foundation”
Vs. 1-2, 4-5

#407
*see next page
PCC choir leads us*

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

***Prayer of Longing**

Author of life, we humbly confess that we too often fall short of your intentions for us and of our expectations for ourselves. We would touch the world with goodness, but we often withdraw in fear and self-concern. We would live with integrity and stand for truth, but we are torn with uncertainties. We would warm the lives of others with our love, but we hesitate, wondering if they will love us in return. We would go about our daily tasks with confidence and joy, but find ourselves struggling with self-doubt. We need your presence, O God, if we are to be what we could be and want to be. Let our worship heal us, renew us, strengthen us, that we may go out in joy and be led forth in peace. Amen.

Prayerful silence

***Assurance of Grace and Invitation to Pass the Peace**

One The peace of Christ be with you!
All And also with you!

**Sitting or standing*

* "How Firm a Foundation"

Vs. 1-2, 4-5

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
 Early United States melody
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to gather with her

Blessing One Another

Children God be with you
All And also with you

*Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity
or remain with their families in worship.*

Scriptures

The Inclusive Bible

Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Morning Message “Will We Restore and Harvest with Joy?”

Prayer Hymn “Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless”

#461
see pages 6-7

Responding to God’s Love

Prayers of the People

You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world.

Raise your hand or stand and project your brief joy or concern.

Pastor Clare will repeat it into the microphone and say, “God, in your love...”

One God, in your love,

All Hear our prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on Earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Witnessing Steward

BJ Stokes

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“I Will Come to You”

by Gustafson

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(See p. 8 for our Prayer of Dedication, which follows after the Doxology)

“Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless”

1 Let us hope when hope seems hope - less, when the
 2 Faith and hope in love's com - pas - sion will sur -
 3 Like a child out - grow - ing child - hood, set - ting

dreams we dreamed have died. When the morn - ing
 vive though knowl - edge cease, though the tongues of
 child - hood things a - way, we will learn to

breaks in bright - ness, hun - ger shall be sat - is - fied.
 joy fall si - lent, dull the words of proph - e - cies.
 live in free - dom, in the life of God's new day.

Emma Lou Diemer, organist since the age of thirteen, studied composition at Yale University and Eastman School of Music, and has published orchestra, chamber, choral, and organ works. David Beebe wrote this text while teaching a course on creative writing. A minister of the United Church of Christ, Beebe has served on the staff of the denomination's Stewardship Council.

Tune: LET US HOPE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Emma Lou Diemer, 1994
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

One who sows the fields with weep - ing shall re - trace the
 Faith shall see and trust its ob - ject; hope shall set its
 Now we see as in a mir - ror. Then we shall see

sor - row - ing way and re - jice in har - vest
 an - chor sure; love shall bloom in Love e -
 face to face, un - der - stand how love's com -

boun - ty at the break - ing of the day.
 ter - nal. Faith and hope and love en - dure.
 pas - sion blos - soms through a - maz - ing Grace.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of generous love, we give thanks for opportunities to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you are with us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your embodied community. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

***Closing Hymn**

"God, We Thank You for Our People"
Vs. 1-2, 4

#376
see p. 9

***Singing**

"Happy Birthday"
...Happy birthday dear BJ, Finley, Walt & Drew

***Benediction**

***Sung Response**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

***Postlude**

"Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

by Gawcett

*Please linger with us for After-Worship Brunch, hosted by Sue Favilla and Claire Spilseth.
All are welcome!*

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* "God, We Thank You for Our People"

Vs. 1-2, 4

1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
 2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,
 3 Still we must con - fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
 4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,

har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.

Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.
 Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,

Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.
 You trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Moore, 1825

Prayer Corner



We hold these joys and concerns in our prayers:

*For peace for Kimberly Jackson's father Gordon in his dying process; and for Kimberly, her brother, and their mother Joan as they grieve this tremendous loss in their lives.

*For Jah'verious, a student of BJ & Claire Stokes, as he heals from a traumatic brain injury sustained in an accident.

*For Evelyn Reichert, Emily Wulff's 90-year-old grandmother, who is currently on hospice for congestive heart failure. She is one of Emily's greatest influences in life, which is why Emily and Matt names their daughter after her.

*For the Siegels' daughter Jenna, who will have surgery on November 3rd. Her brain tumor has doubled in size across the past six months. In a dangerous surgery that carries a high risk of stroke, they will remove the tumor and rebuild the sagittal sinus. This is her 6th surgery on the tumor since 2017. We pray for God's healing energy to surround Jenna, husband Kevin and daughter Emily (along with Cindy, John, and all who love Jenna).

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother Greg as he begins stem cell treatment in his fight with multiple myeloma. He will be in isolation for six weeks, receive chemo during that time, be left with no immunity, and then repeat all childhood vaccinations. He continues to manage pain from multiple fractures in disintegrating bones. We pray for healing.

*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother Allen, awaiting results of a body scan for possibly recurring cancer.

*For the vitality of our enduring congregation, providing a spiritual space for worship and a warm welcome for newcomers.

*We send our hopeful prayers along with the application Walt Richey sent in to the NACCC, seeking a "Silver Linings" grant to support our continued use of technology to enhance worship and faith formation offerings across distance during pandemic.

And in the wider community...

*In the wake of the recent violent shooting at a bar in St. Paul; we pray for those grieving one who died, for fourteen healing from injuries, and for sensible gun control legislation.

*We pray for Indigenous people and their accomplices, fighting to protect water and the dignity and integrity of all creation. May we listen, learn and amplify their voices.

*As the pandemic rages on (having killed 4.9 million worldwide thus far, with 9.7 million current cases in this land), may we each do our part to protect one another from the virus.



All Saints Sunday | November 7th

Is there anyone you'd like us to remember?

On All Saints Sunday, we call to mind those who have died in the past year. We light a candle, toll the bell, and say the name of each one during our worship service. This year, due to the pandemic, we will remember all who have died since we last gathered on an All Saints Sunday in 2019.

Listed below are People's Church members as well as relatives and dear friends who have died since November 3, 2019. If you'd like to add someone to the list, please call or email Kimberly by **Thursday, Oct. 28**, giving the person's name and their relationship to you.

Members | Anne Knutson, Judy Hansen, Karen Joan Dahl,
Donald (Don) Savage, Michael Madden

From our wider circles | Sharon Marie Ford, Richard Richey,
Stanley Richey, Dawn Stickel and Robin Laak,
Kelsey Schroeder, Bruce Laiti, Lin Stephan, Thomas Kaye,
Austin McDonald, Marcoz Paramo, Bob Albright,
Barbara Engman, John Fadden and James Miller

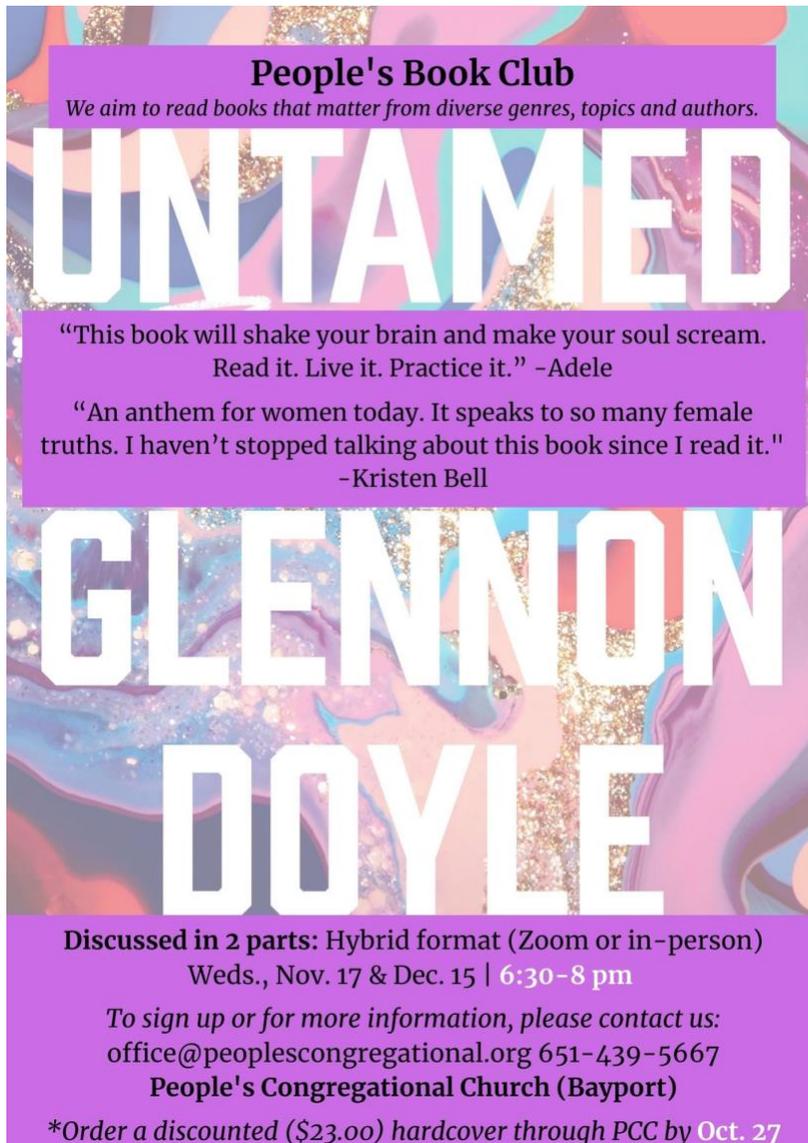


Our Harvest Fest planning team has decided to postpone Harvest Fest as we've known it (an indoor event with a crowd of happy folks eating, shopping, and enjoying fellowship) and re-imagine what it could be. Can YOU imagine something on the land this Winter or Spring? We invite you to share your ideas and organizing energy!

TASTE OF HARVEST FEST, November 14: We all were looking forward to the delicious soups, bread and pie lunch of Harvest Fest, so we've decided to offer a mini-Harvest Fest luncheon immediately after church on Sunday, **November 14**, celebrating the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign. Depending on the weather, we will either eat outside or at safely distanced tables inside. Please volunteer to sign-up to make soup (recipe provided), bread, or pie with Kimberly in the church office. office@peoplescongregational.org

People's Book Club

We aim to read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors.



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UNTAMED

"This book will shake your brain and make your soul scream.
Read it. Live it. Practice it." -Adele

"An anthem for women today. It speaks to so many female truths. I haven't stopped talking about this book since I read it."
-Kristen Bell

GLENNON DOYLE

Discussed in 2 parts: Hybrid format (Zoom or in-person)
Weds., Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 | 6:30-8 pm

To sign up or for more information, please contact us:
office@peoplescongregational.org 651-439-5667
People's Congregational Church (Bayport)

*Order a discounted (\$23.00) hardcover through PCC by Oct. 27

Consider joining us for our 2-part discussion of Glennon Doyle's *Untamed!*

This progressive Christian author is a member of the United Church of Christ. She touches on themes of faith and spirit in her memoir. An activist, speaker, and thought leader, Doyle is also the founder and president of Together Rising, an all-women led nonprofit organization that has revolutionized grassroots philanthropy—raising over \$25 million for women, families, and children in crisis. Doyle is married to American Olympian soccer player Abby Wambach.

Synopsis: Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, Untamed is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call. It is the story of how one woman learned that a responsible mother is not one who slowly dies for her children, but one who shows them how to fully live. It is the story of

navigating divorce, forming a new blended family, and discovering that the brokenness or wholeness of a family depends not on its structure but on each member's ability to bring her full self to the table. And it is the story of how each of us can begin to trust ourselves enough to set boundaries, make peace with our bodies, honor our anger and heartbreak, and unleash our truest, wildest instincts so that we become women who can finally look at ourselves and say: There She Is. Learn more about the book here:

<https://untamedbook.com>

Our People's Book Club is a wonderful way to invite people in the wider community to engage with us. Please share the image above on social media or via email. Please pick up a copy or two of this poster as you leave worship today and hang it up at your favorite coffee shop, gym, or other local spot.

Welcome Team



People's Congregational Church
Vision Budgeting Process | Fall 2021

“Rooted in Love”

“They are like trees planted by flowing water—they bear fruit in every season.” (Psalm 1:3a)

Oct. 17 (in-person), **Oct. 21** (Zoomed) – Congregational Mtng: Sharing a Vision for 2022

Oct 24 – Financial Stewardship Campaign Launches!

Oct 31 – Team/Committee Vision Budget due!

Nov 10 – Monthly Finance Committee & Leadership Team Meetings

Nov 14 – Thanks-4-Giving Sunday

Dec 8 – Monthly Finance Committee & Leadership Team Meetings

Dec 12 – (in-person & Zoom) – Congregational Mtng: Planning, Budget, Elections



Antiracism Collective

Monthly Sacred Conversations

Following worship **next Sunday, October 31 (10:45-11:45am)**, we will look at racism through the eyes of the NACCC. Over a twelve-month period, *The Congregationalist* magazine is publishing articles presenting different member viewpoints on the role of the church in confronting racism. See mid-week for more details.

Volunteer Sign-Up

We now have a sign-up sheet at our after-worship fellowship table. Please sign up for a date to serve as lay reader, one of two greeters, after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.

Thanks to all who collaborated to make this morning wonderful:

PCC Choir & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), greeters, Mindy Peters (liturgist), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Sue Favilla and Claire Spilseth (After-Worship Brunch hosts), Paul Spilseth (service recorder).

Prayer Corner

Please continue to share prayer requests with Pastor Clare by phone (651-600-6409) and email pastor@peoplescongregational.org. We will include them in next week's communications.



Offering

We support the work of our church with financial gifts as we have means to do so. Please consider leaving a gift in the offering basket as you depart in-person worship, mail a check to 309 3rd Street North, Bayport, MN 55003, or scan this QR code with your smartphone to give electronically (selecting "offering & tithes").

People's Congregational Church

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